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SIERRA CLUB BULLETIN

JUNE • 1941



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PUBLISHED BY THE SIERRA CLUB • SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

SIERRA CLUB BULLETIN

VOLUME XXVI • NUMBER 3



JUNE • 1941

Published bimonthly by the Sierra Club, 220 Bush Street, San Francisco, California. Annual dues are \$4.00 (first year \$8.00), of which \$1.00 is for subscription to Sierra Club Bulletin. Entered as second-class matter at Post Office, San Francisco, under Act of March 3, 1879.

Contributions on subjects of interest to Sierra Club members are welcome, and should be sent to the Editorial Board. Deadline for the August number is August 10.

FRANCIS P. FARQUHAR, *Editor*

DAVID R. BROWER, *Associate Editor*

Weldon F. Heald, Charlotte Mauk, Harriet Parsons,

Ruth D. Mendenhall, Marion R. Parsons,

Blanche Stallings

THE COVER—*Polemonium*, the sky pilot that marks the footsteps of those who seek the highest Sierran summits. By Ansel Adams.

An All-Chapters Reunion for Kings Canyon

Last year's experience demonstrated that in no place does the outing reunion spirit flourish better than in the High Sierra. This year's reunion will take place along with the Board of Directors' meeting in this new national park, August 30 to September 1. Camp headquarters will be in the vicinity of Cedar Grove. Campsite location and driving instructions will be mailed with your reservation. Meals served will be from Saturday breakfast through Monday lunch. Commissary will be in charge of Dean Curtis, of Base Camp fame.

Daily activities will consist of strolls and hikes through the canyon and up the easier peaks, fishing, rock-climbing, swimming, and

pleasant campfires around which acquaintances and experiences may be renewed and reviewed. And what's more, high-trippers, base-campers, high-horsers, burro-chasers, and knapsackers from all chapters will have a chance to meet in the mountains before they have lost the tan and toughness they so joyfully acquired during the summer. Here, also, the directors will hold their annual autumn meeting, particularly to discuss Kings Canyon National Park problems. This trip is limited to members and is under the auspices of the Outing Committee. Robert R. Schlenberger, Leader.

Outdoor Clubs to Gather in Tenth Annual Convention

"Nesika," the Trails Club of Oregon's mountain retreat located in the Mount Hood National Forest, will over the Labor Day holidays be the meeting place for the more than one hundred delegates, officers, and guests who plan to attend this year's convention of the Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs. Saturday afternoon, August 30, will find representatives from the 27 member clubs arriving at road's-end, a mile by trail from the Lodge, after an auto caravan up the Columbia River highway from nearby Portland. While old-timers and newcomers are getting acquainted, delegates and officers will gather in the first of many meetings to be held during the ensuing two days. Conservation and recreation problems of mutual interest to member clubs will be the principal topic of discussion, with special meeting held by committees on such subjects as nature study and rock-climbing and mountaineering. At the same time the unique sociability and outdoor hospitality that prevails among the outdoor fraternity will be the order of the day, and everyone present will find plenty to do from reveille to taps.

The reservation charge will be \$3.50 for

meals from day lunch. bags and to bunks in are now at Los Angeles

The annual Board of Directors held at the San Francisco, Saturday. Members: Bernays, Farquhar, Leonard, L. pan. Directed. Also H. Blake, wad, E. A.

Mr. Tap. The report read announced elected on Sierra Club. Adams, Ph. Lewis F. Dawson, F. brand, Wa. Richard M. Jr., Bestor. cis D. Tap.

As officers, ing were el. Bestor Rob. Colby, sec. urer. Lewi. member of N. LeCon. dent. Dunc. vice-presid. elected hon. Albright, McFarland.

meals from Saturday dinner through Monday lunch. Guests will bring their sleeping bags and hiking clothes and will be assigned to bunks in dormitories. Reservation blanks are now available at the San Francisco and Los Angeles offices of the Sierra Club. It is

hoped that a large representation of club members may be present. Those planning to attend please advise Arthur H. Blake, the delegate of the Sierra Club, who will be glad to furnish details supplementing the bulletins posted in club offices.

Directors Hold Organization Meeting

The annual organization meeting of the Board of Directors of the Sierra Club was held at the club headquarters in San Francisco, Saturday, May 3. Present were directors Bernays, Brower, Clark, Colby, Dawson, Farquhar, Hildebrand, Huber, Kehrlein, Leonard, Livermore, Robinson, Starr, Tappaan. Director Adams was absent and excused. Also present by invitation were Arthur H. Blake, A. E. Baldwin, Dorothy Markwad, E. A. Abeel.

Mr. Tappaan called the meeting to order. The report of the Judges of Election was read announcing that the following were elected on April 12, 1941, directors of the Sierra Club for the ensuing year: Ansel Adams, Phil S. Bernays, David R. Brower, Lewis F. Clark, William E. Colby, Glen Dawson, Francis P. Farquhar, Joel H. Hildebrand, Walter L. Huber, Oliver Kehrlein, Richard M. Leonard, Norman B. Livermore, Jr., Bestor Robinson, Walter A. Starr, Francis D. Tappaan.

As officers for the ensuing year the following were elected: Walter A. Starr, president; Bestor Robinson, vice-president; William E. Colby, secretary; Walter L. Huber, treasurer. Lewis F. Clark was elected the fifth member of the Executive Committee. Joseph N. LeConte was re-elected honorary president. Duncan McDuffie was elected honorary vice-president, and the following were re-elected honorary vice-presidents: Horace M. Albright, François E. Matthes, J. Horace McFarland, John C. Merriam, Marion R.

Parsons, Robert G. Sproul, Ray Lyman Wilbur, William H. Wright.

The minutes of the previous meeting of the Board, held December 7, 1940, were approved as published in the December *Sierra Club Bulletin*.

Mr. Colby read the report of the Judges of Election announcing that at the recent election on April 12 the proposed amendment to the by-laws was adopted by a vote of 1376 to 83. The amendment provides that "The husband or wife of a member may become a member in full standing upon payment of the regular admission fee and annual dues of two dollars, such member not to receive the publications and special mailings of the Club."

Letters from honorary vice-presidents Matthes and Albright were read. Mr. Matthes plans to return to the Sierra Nevada this summer in order to complete the study of the geology of Kings Canyon National Park. Mr. Albright's letter brought word of the death of Arno B. Cammerer, former Director of the National Park Service.

It was resolved that the Directors of the Sierra Club, having learned this day of the untimely death of Arno B. Cammerer, former Director of the National Park Service and one of the great friends of our National Parks, extend to his widow the sympathy of the Sierra Club and its members, and that she be advised of the deep regard and great admiration which the members of the Board of Directors have had for her husband in his

untiring efforts in behalf of the National Park System.

Prior to the meeting copies of written reports submitted by A. E. Baldwin, David R. Brower, H. B. Richardson, chairmen of the Southern California, San Francisco Bay, and Riverside chapters, respectively, were mailed to the directors; reports from Dorothy Markwad and E. A. Abeel, chairmen of the Loma Prieta and Mother Lode chapters, respectively, were read by the secretary. These reports were accepted and placed on file.

A motion was passed that the seal already procured by the Secretary, with the following impress: "SIERRA CLUB, incorporated June 4, 1892, California," be and the same is hereby adopted as the official seal of the Sierra Club to be affixed in the execution of documents whenever appropriate, and that where this seal has heretofore been so affixed to any documents signed or executed by the Sierra Club, such action be and is hereby ratified and authorized as the official action of the Sierra Club.

WHEREAS, Sierra Club was incorporated under the laws of the State of California on the 4th day of June, 1892; and

WHEREAS, its Articles of Incorporation contain a provision limiting the term of its existence as follows, to-wit:

"V. That the term for which said Corporation is to exist is fifty years from and after the date of its incorporation."

WHEREAS, the California law now permits a corporation to have perpetual existence;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the aforementioned paragraph V of the Articles of Incorporation of Sierra Club be and the same is hereby removed and stricken therefrom, and its Articles of Incorporation

be amended by inserting in lieu thereof the following paragraph:

"V. This Corporation shall have perpetual existence."

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the President and Secretary of Sierra Club be and they are hereby authorized and directed to prepare, sign, verify and file the required certificate and any other documents necessary or expedient in connection with this amendment to the Articles of Incorporation.

A motion was passed that the action of the membership of the corporation approving in 1922 an increase in the number of directors from nine to fifteen be approved, confirmed, and ratified, and that any other steps necessary to make this action legal be authorized.

A motion was passed confirming the action of Secretary Colby in connection with outstanding Tuolumne Soda Springs certificates, and he was authorized to continue the same procedure.

A motion was passed that the Board of Directors hold its annual fall meeting over the Labor Day weekend in Kings River Canyon, and that the Outing Committee and the chapters be invited to have a weekend outing in the canyon in conjunction with the directors' meeting.

Mr. Brower presented on behalf of the Committee on Mountain Records and Place Names the following recommendations: That the Board reaffirm its previous action taken in May 1932 in requesting the U. S. Geographic Board to approve the well-established name "Mount Langley" and restore it to the map; that the directors oppose the name "Trail Crest" for the Whitney Pass Trail; that they approve the name "Mount Eilen" for Peak 12,250, circa, at southeast corner of the U.S.G.S. *Tehipite Quadrangle*. A

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motion was passed approving these recommendations.

Mr. Blake reported on behalf of the High Sierra Trails Committee and also the Committee on Sierra Bighorn.

A motion was passed that a committee be appointed to secure historical and factual data regarding the matter of the gradual disappearance of High Sierra meadows and report to the Board at a later meeting.

The Secretary was instructed to write the superintendent of Kings Canyon National Park and request that signs be placed on the club property at Zumwalt Meadow indicating that the meadow is not open to grazing.

Mr. Starr reported on behalf of the National Park and Forest Policy Committee, the Outing Committee presented a detailed financial report on its 1940 operations, and Lewis Clark reported briefly concerning LeConte, Shasta, and Parsons lodges. A motion was passed that the lodge at Mount Shasta be designated by the club as the "Sierra Club Shasta Lodge" and that the proper agencies be so notified.

Mr. Clark also reported on the Clair Tappaan Lodge, giving details as to attendance and finances.

A motion was passed that repayment of any of the principal of the loan from the Club to the Clair Tappaan Lodge Account be deferred for an additional period of one year.

A motion was passed that the Board appropriate out of Clair Tappaan Lodge funds the sum of \$1,700 for capital improvements and betterments around and about the Clair Tappaan Lodge.

Bestor Robinson reported briefly on winter sports and David Brower on progress of the Visual Education Committee.

Mr. Colby reported that the Executive Committee had taken steps to protect the

name of the Sierra Club by filing opposition to the registration with the U. S. Patent Office, Washington, D. C., of the Club's name by a beverage company.

A motion was passed authorizing the officers of the Sierra Club to take such action as necessary or appropriate to oppose the use of the Club name for commercial products.

The directors approved in principle the bills now pending in Congress relating to the acquisition of roadside strips for scenic purposes (S. 231 and H. R. 299).

A motion was passed that the matter of appointing a delegate to the annual convention of the Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs over Labor Day be left to president with power to act.

The sum of \$50 was appropriated to be spent under the direction of the California Academy of Sciences for the purpose of making observations of the Sierra bighorn in the High Sierra, provided the Academy believes it advisable to do so and can get other funds to aid in the matter.

A motion was passed ratifying the action taken by Mr. Robinson in connection with acquisition of the ski tow property near the Tappaan Lodge.

A motion was passed ratifying the action of the Executive Committee in authorizing the purchase from the Southern Pacific Land Company of the section of land including the spring adjoining the club-owned land on which the Sierra Club Shasta Lodge is situated.

A motion was passed that the president appoint a committee to consider the exchange of unneeded portions of the recently purchased Shasta property for portions of other national forest lands, and that the Executive Committee be authorized to act in the matter.

Endorsement of Assembly Constitutional Amendment No. 43 or any similar legislation

providing for staggered terms for the members of the State Park Commission was voted.

A motion was passed authorizing the Southern California Chapter to solicit funds to be used toward the enlargement of the Anza Desert State Park.

The action of the president and the secretary in entering into an agreement with the Government concerning Le Conte Memorial Lodge, as previously authorized by the Board, was ratified, and the officers were instructed and authorized to take any further action in this connection that may be required.

A motion was passed that the Sierra Club favors in principle the program of the California Roadside Council as expressed in legislation favored by it pending in the State Legislature.

A resolution of thanks was voted to Tony Chorlton, of New Zealand, for the fine set of colored photographs of New Zealand mountain scenery which he recently sent to the club.

A motion was passed that the trustee of the will of Ynes Mexia be advised that the directors consent to the use of such funds as he deems proper for having some of her letters copied, the Sierra Club guaranteeing reimbursement to the executor to the extent of one-half the amount so spent if this should be held not to be a legal expense. (Farquhar and Colby refrained from voting.)

The following resolution was regularly adopted:

RESOLVED, that the Sierra Club is deeply concerned with a bill known as the Palm Springs Winter Park Authority which has been submitted to Governor Culbert L. Olson for signature, and which would endanger the wilderness area of the San Jacinto State Park. The expenditure of money for a tramway which would tend to destroy the wilderness character of this region would also seem inadvisable when consideration is taken of the fact that the money which would be devoted to this destructive purpose can be better used in this time of emergency and stress;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Honorable Culbert L. Olson be requested to veto such bill or any similar bill.

A motion was passed that it is the sense of the Board of Directors that the use of any portion of the Walter Mosauer Lodge Fund for any other purpose than the construction of a memorial lodge is contrary to the representations made at the time the fund was raised and is therefore inadvisable.

A motion was passed approving the suggestion of having the Outing, Tappan Lodge, and Club accounts handled by an accounting firm, and that the Executive Committee investigate the cost thereof with power to act.

WM. E. COLBY, *Secretary*

Committee Appointments for 1941-42

Editorial—Francis P. Farquhar (editor), David R. Brower (associate editor), Weldon F. Heald, Charlotte E. Mauk, Ruth Dyar Mendenhall, Harriet T. Parsons, Marion R. Parsons, Blanche Stallings.

Glacier Study—Oliver Kehrlein (chairman), Eliot Blackwelder, C. A. Harwell, Thomas M. Hunt, Richard M. Leonard, François E. Matthes.

High Sierra Trails—Arthur H. Blake (chairman), David R. Brower, Richard M. Leonard, Norman B. Livermore, Jr.

Library—Alfred E. Weiler (chairman), Miriam Burd, Cecilia M. MacKenzie, Mary M. Myers, Vivian Schagen, Rosa M. Selle, Blanche Stallings.

Lodge—Lewis F. Clark (chairman), Virginia Adams (LeConte Lodge), Edward O.

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Allen (Parsons Lodge), F. Eldon Baldauf (consultant), Wilbert L. Davies (Keller Peak Hut), Robert MacConaghy (Harwood Lodge and San Antonio Hut), John M. Stokeley (Shasta Lodge).

Mountain Records and Place Names—

David R. Brower (chairman), John D. Mendenhall (vice-chairman for southern California), Arthur H. Blake, Lewis F. Clark, John A. Dyer, Braeme E. Gigas, Alan Hedden, Arthur B. Johnson, Oliver Kehrlein, Howard Koster, Doris F. Leonard, Richard M. Leonard, Dorothy Markwad, Ruth D. Mendenhall, L. Bruce Meyer, Hervey H. Voge.

Owing— Richard M. Leonard (chairman), Phil S. Bernays, Herbert L. Breed, David R. Brower, Milton Hildebrand, Oliver Kehrlein, Norman B. Livermore, Jr.

Winter Sports— Bestor Robinson (chairman).

Clair Tappaan Lodge— Lewis F. Clark (chairman), Richard Burnley, Charlotte E. Mauk, Einar Nilsson, Bestor Robinson, Glenn L. Weber (Winter Sports representatives), Arthur H. Blake, Laurence Burnley, Edgar M. Cerf, Violet Neuenburg (Bay Chapter representatives), Hermann L. Horn (Loma Prieta Chapter representative), Thomas H. Jukes (Mother Lode Chapter representative), Joseph C. Staudinger (at large).

Visual Education— David R. Brower (chairman), Lewis F. Clark, Nathan C. Clark, Joel H. Hildebrand, Richard M. Leonard, Bestor Robinson.

Mount Shasta Lands— Arthur H. Blake (chairman), Lewis F. Clark, Walter L. Huber.

What to Do if You See a Bighorn

Last year the two persons who reported actual observation of the bands of Sierra bighorn, as recorded in the 1941 magazine number of the *Bulletin*, were naturally too excited to be able to take photographs or did not have camera or field glasses along. Joseph S. Dixon, Field Biologist of the Fish and Wildlife Service, suggests that the mountaineer so fortunate as to encounter a bighorn—most likely along the Crest between Bishop and Whitney passes—should be nonchalant and endeavor to watch for the following:

1. *Lambs.*—Detailed data on bighorn lambs is needed. All possible facts covering the date, number, size, and locality where young lambs are seen would be most helpful. How many pairs of twins are there? Any information regarding factors causing the death of lambs would be welcome. If there is any evidence that a golden eagle, coyote,

or other animal has killed a lamb, please be sure to take a photograph of the remains in place, exactly as found. (If possible, save the dried remains.)

2. *Feeding habits and food.*—Accurate determination of plants eaten by the Sierra bighorn is especially desirable. If you have any opportunity to watch with binoculars bighorn that are feeding, please note special plants that are eaten. Also note if bighorn rams ever use the tips of their horns to pry plants or plant roots out of crevices in rocks or out of the ground. Is all digging up of plants such as *Hulsea* done by the front feet of the bighorn?

3. *Relative numbers.*—Please note the number of rams, ewes, yearlings, and lambs in any band of bighorn that you may be lucky enough to see.

Please send your report of observations and copies of photographs or list of same to the

Committee on Sierra Bighorn, 1050 Mills Tower, San Francisco, California. Several typed copies will be appreciated for distribu-

tion to such cooperating agencies as may be interested. Your observations will also be reported in the *Sierra Club Bulletin* for 1942.

Park Service Personnel Shifted

Eleven important shifts in the field personnel of the National Park Service have been announced. The immediate cause of these changes was the death on April 30 of Arno B. Cammerer, former director of the Service, who at the time of his death was regional director for Region One with headquarters in Richmond, Virginia. Mr. Cammerer's position as Region One director has been filled by Thomas J. Allen, former regional director of Region Two. The Region Two directorship vacated by Mr. Allen is filled by Lawrence C. Merriam, former superintendent of Yosemite National Park. John R. White, former Sequoia National Park Superintendent and regional director of Region Four with headquarters in San Francisco, has been transferred back to Sequoia at his own request. Owen A. Tomlinson, former superintendent of Mount Rainier National Park, Washington, also a veteran Park Service official, has become the new regional director of Region Four. Major Tomlinson's position as superintendent of Mount Rainier has been taken by John C. Preston, former superintendent of Lassen Volcanic National Park. The Yosemite superintendency held by Mr. Merriam has been filled by Frank A. Kittredge, who was superintendent of Grand Canyon National Park. Mr. Kittredge was an engineer with the Bureau of Public Roads for ten years and later chief engineer for the National Park

Service from 1927 to 1937. Mr. Kittredge's place at Grand Canyon has been filled by Harold C. Bryant, who was PWA consultant for the Park Service and before that supervisor of Research and Interpretation in its Washington Office. In his position as consultant, Dr. Bryant assisted in the administration of Kings Canyon National Park, California. The Kings Canyon superintendent is now Eivind T. Scoyen, who was holding that position at Sequoia National Park. Before going to Sequoia Mr. Scoyen was the superintendent of Glacier National Park, Montana, and Zion National Park, Utah. He first worked for the Park Service in Yellowstone National Park in 1913. James V. Lloyd, who has been assistant superintendent at Grand Canyon National Park, has become the superintendent of Lassen Volcanic National Park, replacing Mr. Preston. Before going to Grand Canyon, Mr. Lloyd was the assistant superintendent at Yosemite National Park for two years and a ranger there for 13 years. Filling Mr. Lloyd's position at Grand Canyon is John M. Davis, former assistant superintendent at Zion National Park. Mr. Davis has been with the Park Service since 1926. Prior to his Zion assignment he was chief ranger at Mount Rainier. Robert P. Holland, superintendent of Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine at Baltimore, Maryland, has been appointed to Mr. Davis' position at Zion Park.

Summer at the Club's Lodges and Huts

The conditions herein set forth are now more a matter of reminiscence rather than

anticipation, but to keep the record straight, and for the benefit of those who may be

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traveling later, here is a brief review of some things to be found at the various club lodges and huts this summer:

Shasta Lodge.—Custodian William Bridge Cooke writes that on July 2 eight feet of snow still stood in many places around the lodge, with the kitchen stockade and several of the cabins just emerging. At Sand Flat, where the trail starts up from the Mount Shasta City-Panther Meadow road, the Forest Service has erected a handsome wooden sign carved with silvered letters in conformity with other new signs in the Shasta National Forest. Now none can mistake our general direction from the highway. Despite the unusual snow conditions, Mr. Cooke is prepared, as usual, to provide meals for visiting mountaineers at nominal rates. If there are several in the party he would appreciate advance notice of at least a week so that needed supplies may be on hand.

Peter Grubb Hut.—Last year's agenda are still being worked on. The hut received a substantial patronage during the ski season, although statistics are not yet available. No custodian is in residence, but members wishing to visit the hut and perhaps the nearby vantage point of Castle Peak may obtain the key from the Clair Tappaan Lodge five miles to the south by trail.

Clair Tappaan Lodge.—Periodic work parties are again being held here. Work projects done and planned are: painting the first aid room, the kitchen ceiling, and parts of the wash-rooms, structural completion of the log buttresses and building entrances, a new garbage disposal scheme, more lockers, new showers, and other features. The work depends upon volunteer labor, and parties will be conducted frequently during the summer and fall. Those interested in joining such a party will please get in touch with Lewis Clark.

Le Conte Lodge.—For seventeen years visitors to this quiet memorial in busy Yosemite Valley have been greeted by gracious Francis C. Holman or his friendly assistant, Mrs. W. L. Adams. The Lodge Committee regrets that on account of his health and advanced age Mr. Holman can no longer serve as custodian. His place is taken this year by young Edward Anderson and his wife, who will bring a new outlook at a time when the club is preparing to change somewhat the atmosphere of the lodge. Without in any way interfering with its memorial character, the plans are to eliminate relics of the days when Le Conte Lodge was the only museum in the Valley. The splendid Government Museum now presents in admirable fashion the fauna, flora, geology, and history of the Yosemite region. The Sierra Club, however, believes that it is specially equipped to make a unique contribution by establishing at the Le Conte Lodge a source of mountaineering information where club members and the general public may find inspiring and authentic pictures, maps, itineraries, and other data to disclose the why and how of walking, camping, and climbing in the park and forest wilderness areas of Yosemite, Kings Canyon, and Sequoia. The Lodge Committee, and in particular Mrs. Ansel Adams of the Committee, solicits the cooperation of the Mountain Records, Library, and Outing committees and any other groups or individuals who can offer suggestions on how to make this lodge a vital club headquarters in one of the most popular mountain centers in the country.

Parsons Lodge.—This year both the High Trip and Saddle Trip started from Tuolumne Meadows, and the Outing Committee was glad that faithful, experienced custodian Albert Duhme was host at the starting point. The increasing number of Club members who are taking advantage of improved roads to visit the Lembert Soda Springs are also

glad that Mr. Duhme is on hand again. Extension of the pipe line from the fresh water spring, and the possible installation of a storage tank remain on the work program for this summer.

Muir Shelter Hut.—Not weeks or months, but years, separate official visits of club representatives to this rocky shelter midway on the John Muir Trail. This summer the Knapsack Trip will spend a night or two here, and later, we hope, will report on how things of nature are going at this highest club hut.

San Antonio Ski Hut.—Four monthly work parties with individual commissaries are officially scheduled to put the trail and hut in condition for another ski season. More wood and more wood seems to be the theme. A fine view and good work-out will reward one for the climb anytime.

Harwood Lodge.—This, the club property most accessible to a large urban area, will be the setting for scheduled gatherings featuring: new members, a Hawaiian evening, a photographic exhibit, a work party, a musicale, Hallowe'en. Members from outside southern California who may be in that region should consult the Southern California Chapter Schedule or the club head-

quarters in Los Angeles for detailed dates of various events.

Keller Peak Ski Hut.—At 6800 feet elevation, on the Lake Arrowhead-Big Bear Lake highway, Keller Peak hut is a pleasant rendezvous in summer as well as winter. Here, too, four monthly work parties are scheduled, with central commissaries, to fix things neglected during the winter and, as usual, to get more wood.

* * *

In numbers, the Sierra Club lodges and huts seemed to have reached a plateau, but in facilities and opportunities for recreation they continue to ascend. The general Lodge Committee of the Club and the individual committees in charge of particular places each will welcome suggestions and comments from members concerning ways by which the lodge system, and its component parts, may be of greater service to club members, and to the general public in those instances where public service is offered. Older members know, and newer members will doubtless learn in time, that there are limitations to what we can do with available resources, but our ambition is broader than our present performance.

LEWIS F. CLARK

Chairman Lodge Committee

Going, Going—

Four hundred fifty unclimbed peaks appeared on the horizon for those who first perused Richard M. Leonard's catalog of Sierra summits rising 500 feet or more above their highest saddles. Some were unclimbed because of difficulty, others because of their remoteness; many were "unclimbed" merely because records of ascent were lacking.

But that was back in 1934. Since then rock-climber and rope have answered the challenge of difficulty, varied outings and

knapsack trips have solved the problem of remoteness, Sierranistorsians have supplied missing records. Armed with topographic maps covered with tiny circles representing the supposedly untouched summits, all three categories of mountaineers have set out to decimate the *terra incognita*. Have they been successful?

To a degree, yes. For there are now only 303 peaks for which the Committee on Mountain Records and Place Names has no

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data. Twenty summits a year have, on the average, left the ranks. The resulting accumulation of information is more than a game to the committee; it serves as important background work for the serial presentation of *A Climber's Guide to the High Sierra*, planned to appear eventually as a companion book to Starr's *Guide to the John Muir Trail*.

Two committee publications are available to members who would aid the research: *Mountain Records of the Sierra Nevada*, with its 116 mimeographed pages listing the first five known ascents of Sierra peaks and routes; and *Unclimbed (?) Peaks of the High Sierra*, revised to June 24, 1941, which lists the peaks for which the committee has no records.

Especially desired by the committee are records for the Evolution and Northern Yosemite regions, since those portions of the *Climber's Guide* are now being prepared for the *Sierra Club Bulletin*. Mountaineers who have accomplished noteworthy ascents in the Sierra, but have been restrained to the point of keeping this information to themselves, or others who would learn more of the 303 peaks, should communicate with the Committee on Mountain Records. To standardize the presentation of information gathered by various volunteers the committee has prepared a special "Route Questionnaire," copies of which are available upon request.

D. R. B.

Concerning the Indian

[Out of the maze of material which has been written about the American Indian, two recent volumes are noteworthy. Each by an author outstanding in his field, these books cover closely related subjects, the life of the Indian in the United States, and Indian Art in North America.]

Clark Wissler, Dean of the Scientific Staff and Curator of Anthropology of the American Museum of Natural History, in this his latest work¹ portrays the struggle of the red man against the advancing frontier. First, he describes the life of the Indian before the coming of the white man. Then the great Indian families, the life and customs of the tribes, their resistance and adjustment, and then final defeat are discussed in detail. He gives brief accounts of the famous Indian personalities, Keokuk, Sequoya, Joseph Brant, Pontiac, and the others. This book does not end with the subjugation of the Indian, but the author describes with understanding the role of the Indian in the present and future. This final section of the volume may well prove of greatest interest to the reader, for

here the author considers sociological aspects of the subject: Whether the Indian is dying out, whether he lived in vain, the mystery of the Indian mind, and life on the reservations.

CHARLOTTE LOWES

Dr. Vaillant has traveled with expeditions in Egypt, Maine, Arizona, New Mexico, and Mexico. He is well equipped to discuss the arts of the Indians on this continent and in his book² he does this with warmth and understanding. The main thing of importance about this volume is not the quantum of fact to be found in it, although this is considerable, or even its obvious accuracy, but the idea running throughout the text that here is an art which the white culture of this country would do well to consider seriously and

¹*Indians of the United States, Four Centuries of Their History and Culture.* By Clark Wissler. Doubleday, Doran & Company, Inc., New York. 1940. xvi + 319 pages, with illustrations. Price, \$3.75.

²*Indian Arts in North America.* By George C. Vaillant. Harper & Brothers, New York and London. 1939. xviii + 63 pages; 96 plates. Price, \$5.00.

which should not be allowed to disappear. Many efforts have been and are being made to interest our citizens sufficiently in the various forms of American Indian art to enable the real craftsman to continue to produce his blanket, bracelet, pottery, or statue. This book is another one of these efforts, and is unique and effective in this respect. Dr. Vaillant begins with three chapters concerning the value of Indian Arts to our white American artists, and a general discussion of the nature and social background of Indian

art on this continent. He leads us through the origins of Indian culture, through a short but very interesting history of Indian art before contact with the White Man, and concludes with a discussion of Indian art after contact with the White Man, and a general appraisal of Indian art. Following the text are 96 beautiful photographic plates, carefully chosen from photographs of subjects in various collections and museums in this country.

BEN ELLEN

Skiing in Sparta

Almost as old as the telemark *vs.* christiania argument is the smouldering controversy between tourers and down-hill only* devotees. The perpetual question has been approximately this: should skis provide a means of access to the beauties of the winter scene, or should they be considered as equipment for a formal sport, as are golf clubs? That this is a somewhat prejudiced stating of the question is of little matter, since the ski season has to all intents (and out) passed. But in these times, even at this late date, an interesting contribution to the discussion is found in a letter Milton Hildebrand has just received from Harry Wade Hicks, chairman of the National Ski Association committee on cross country skiing. Mr. Hicks attended the annual meeting of the Canadian Amateur Ski Association, and writes:

"... A representative of the Canadian Army Ski School was present who testified that only the skiers who know cross country

and can handle themselves on a tour are capable of qualifying to act as instructors and leaders of skiing with the Canadian Army. He laid great stress upon the fact that hunters and trappers could be taught all the skills they would need to know in three weeks, whereas the downhill skier had neither the physical development nor ability to walk on skis on the level, to say nothing of carrying heavy packs and living in the open in heat and reasonable comfort. He said, therefore, that the great army of downhill skiers was out as far as army training was concerned, and it is quite clear that his judgment is sound. His remarks . . . certainly were encouraging . . . in view of the sermons we have been preaching in our Bulletins on this country as being the ultimate universal type of skiing for everyone after the period of interest of the ride-up and slide-down type of skiing has passed on account of age."

The *Sierra Club Bulletin* has carried sermons, too, yet even those who write them have often been observed riding up and sliding down. Research?

*Some of the latter organized in Europe several years ago under the insignia, "D.H.O." A more modern description was recently heard, perhaps coined, at Norden: "slope dopes."

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